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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/887,119	06/25/2001	Masanobu Saito	35.C15478	7331

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EXAMINER

NGHIEM, MICHAEL P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2861

DATE MAILED: 09/06/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/887,119

Applicant(s)

SAITO ET AL.

Examiner

Michael P Nghiem

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 June 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- "the image clock" (page 24, line 17) should be -- The image clock --.

Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show "nip unit N2" (page 18, line 20) as described in the specification. Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP, 608.02(d). Correction is required.

3. The drawings are objected to because "Meam B" (Fig. 4) should be -- Beam B --. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 2, 3, 5-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, it is not possible to turn on both beams (A, B) before modulating the drive signals (see elements 33-35, Fig. 3).

Claims 7-24, the specification is not described in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains to make or reconstruct the detecting means and exposure intensity control means as claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Curry (US 5,430,472).

Curry discloses all the claimed features of the invention including:

- an image forming apparatus (Fig. 1) comprising:
 - a scanning means (including 17) for scanning a photosensitive body (14, 24) using a plurality of semiconductor lasers (15, column 20, lines 30-32) to form a latent image (Fig. 1);
 - a latent image forming means (including 41) for pulse-widthmodulating a drive signal of the semiconductor lasers in accordance with a write position of the latent image (Fig. 1), when exposure is performed such that one of beams from the plurality of semiconductor lasers is partially overlapped with a beam adjacent to one of the beams from the plurality of semiconductor lasers on the photosensitive body (Fig. 11G).

Claims 7-9, 12-17, and 20-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takeshi (JP 08-317157).

Takeshi discloses all the claimed features of the invention including:

- an image forming apparatus (Fig. 2) comprising:
 - a plurality of emitting means (Constitution, line 3) for emitting a

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plurality of light beams;

- scanning means (including 20) for scanning the plurality of light beams emitted from the plurality of emitting means on a common photosensitive body (22);

- modulating means (Constitution, line 5) for modulating the plurality of light beams in accordance with respective image data;

- detecting means (Constitution, lines 8-9) for detecting a plurality of image pixels which are adjacent to each other in a sub scanning direction and exposed in different main scanings (Fig. 2), in accordance with the image data;

- exposure intensity control means (Constitution, lines 9-10) for relatively decreasing an exposure intensity of the light beams for at least one of the plurality of image pixels detected by the detecting means, in response to a detection result of the detecting means (Constitution, lines 9-11);

- the exposure intensity control means controls an exposure time of the light beams for recording one pixel (Constitution, lines 3-5);

- the exposure intensity control means causes the modulating means to pulse-width-modulate (Constitution, line 5);

- the detecting means has means for storing image data of at least one main scanning (Constitution, lines 1-2).


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Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Nghiem whose telephone number is (703) 306-3445. The examiner can normally be reached on M-H from 6:30AM – 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hilten can be reached at (703) 308-0719. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7724 for regular communications and (703) 308-5841 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.


MICHAEL NGHIEM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Michael Nghiem

September 4, 2002